

control. It would also monitor the prices of decontrolled drugs and formulations and oversee the implementation of the provisions of the DPCO. Necessary steps have already been initiated to set up the NPPA.

Speed of Trains

3103. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to increase the speed of the trains running between Patan-Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational exigencies and speed restrictions.

Electrification on Rail Routes

3104. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce electrification on Ghaziabad-Meerut and Ghaziabad-Saharanpur rail routes;

(b) if so, the time by which electrification on the said routes would be done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal to electrify Ghaziabad-Meerut section over which the traffic density is low at present and does not qualify for electrification. The portion Meerut to Saharanpur has been included in the Budget for 1996-97 as a new work as part of electrification of Khurja-Hapur-Meerut-Saharanpur section.

Infiltration into Rann of Kutch

3105. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that Sir Creek in little Rann of Kutch is having abundant potentiality for oil and fishing industry apart from the other mineral deposits;

(b) whether there has been a constant threat from Pakistan side to control the area and it is prone to frequent infiltration from other side of the border; and

(c) if so, the efforts made so far and being made to protect this area from infiltration and ensure security of the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It is a known fact that Exclusion Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Western Coast has an abundant potential for Oil and other Maritime assets on which Pakistan may like to have a control. To check the situation, however, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) The Creek area has been kept under surveillance by physical domination in Sawalpir area.
- (ii) Patrolling/Nakas has been increased/intensified.
- (iii) Binoculars, Twin Telescopes, Night Vision Devices, PNV binoculars and hand held search lights have been provided for enhanced vigilance on the border.
- (iv) Boats/motor boats have been provided for patrolling Creek area.
- (v) The Co-ordination meetings are held at various levels between State Government of Gujarat, Navy, Army, Coastal Guard, Custom and BSF authorities for effectively controlling the transborder crimes in Creek area.
- (vi) Water Crafts have been deployed for patrolling in the Creek area.
- (vii) Tractors have also been deployed in Kutch for patrolling purposes.
- (viii) Intelligence set up of the BSF has been geared up for keeping close surveillance on the border.

Smuggling of Arms and Currency

3106. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to newsitem captioned "Pak dumping arms and fake currency", appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated May 25, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the preventive measures taken to check recurrence of such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Recently there have been instances wherein arms, ammunition and explosives were smuggled into the country. Similarly, instances of circulation of counterfeit currency in some parts of the country, particularly North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab have also come to notice. Government is alive to the situation and are taking appropriate steps